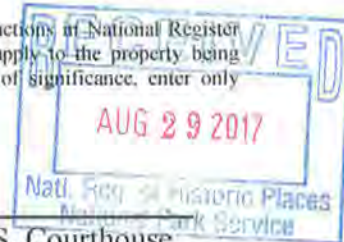


315 A United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-1746

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions at National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: United States Post Office and Court House
Other names/site number: G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 315 South McDuffie Street
City or town: Anderson State: South Carolina County: Anderson
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A ___ B C ___ D

| | |
|---|------------------|
| | <u>8/29/2017</u> |
| Signature of certifying official/Title: | Date |
| <u>Federal Preservation Officer</u> | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

| | |
|---|---|
| | <u>7/20/2017</u> |
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| Title: <u>Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, SC State Historic Preservation Office</u> | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |


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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

10/13/17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1
(Contributing to the Anderson Historic District)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office
GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
GOVERNMENT: Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Other: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: Granite, Limestone; BRICK;
METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The United States Post Office and Court House (current name: G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse) occupies a 0.9-acre lot at the northeast intersection of South McDuffie Street and East Market Street in Anderson, Anderson County, South Carolina. The Colonial Revival-style federal building was constructed from 1937-1938 to house the U.S. Post Office, a courtroom for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of South Carolina and additional supporting offices. Today, the building houses a courtroom for the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, supporting court offices and the U.S. Marshals Service. Three stories with basement, the building is clad in red brick and trimmed with limestone. It features a central three-story, three-bay gable ended main block flanked by two-story, flat-roof wings. The first story is distinguished by evenly distributed full height arched openings containing windows and the main entrance. The lobby on the first floor feature a mural, entitled *Corn, Cotton, and Tobacco Culture*, painted in 1940 by Arthur Sinclair Covey.

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Narrative Description

The United States Post Office and Court House is located east of Anderson's commercial center, at the north end of the Anderson Historic District.¹ Mid- to late-twentieth century, low-rise, commercial and county government buildings comprise the immediate areas to the north and southwest of the building. Overflow parking lots are located across South McDuffie Street to the west, and across East Market Street to the south of the building. A residential neighborhood is located to the east.

The United States Post Office and Court House is an example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture popular for federal buildings designed and constructed in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The style, which combines elements of the Federal and Georgian architectural styles, is characterized by symmetrical facades, arched and multi-light sash windows, fanlights, classically detailed eaves and door surrounds, and red brick walls with contrasting light colored trim, all features present in the United States Post Office and Court House. Since the building is constructed of high-quality materials, including granite, limestone, and brick, it remains in excellent condition with few alterations to its 1938 exterior appearance and configuration.

Exterior Description

The United States Post Office and Court House measures one hundred feet from east to west and ninety-six feet from north to south. The steel frame structure sits atop a full, elevated basement constructed of reinforced concrete. The building is composed of a central, three-story, three-bay, gable-ended main block flanked to the north and south by a two-story, flat-roof wing. As constructed, the building closely follows the original drawings dating to 1937.² One exception is that the original drawings show marble trim where the existing building has limestone trim. Limestone panels clad the foundation walls above grade while brick, laid in a Flemish bond, clads the exterior walls above the foundation. The roof is clad in tar and metal. A limestone beltcourse separates the first and second stories on each elevation, and a limestone frieze tops the second story on each elevation. The frieze is accented with carved limestone rosettes at each corner on each elevation.

In the first story, the building is primarily lit by arched windows comprised of paired four-over-four light, double-hung, wood-sash windows surmounted by a fanlight. Each arched window is situated atop a molded, white-painted spandrel panel featuring a raised, rectangle, centrally broken by an orb highlighted in tan paint. The original drawings call for these panels to be wood

1. Anderson Historic District (7112450072), comprised largely of 19th and early 20th century houses and churches, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 13, 1971.

2. Original drawings are maintained by the Southeast Sunbelt Region of the U.S. General Services Administration.

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or concrete, with the exception of those flanking the main entrance, which are to be marble. As constructed, the panels appear to be composed of concrete. Each arched opening is recessed from the face of the elevation and set into an arched brick surround, with the exception of the central three bays of the façade; these are set into a limestone surround, which is set within a brick surround. The upper stories of the building are primarily lit by six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, the majority of which are framed by simple wood sills and brick jack-arch lintels, except where noted. The basement level of the building has of a variety of window types, including one-over-one light, four-over-four light, and six-over-six light, double-hung, wood sash. The basement-level windows, which are below grade and face onto areaways, have wire glass lights.

The west elevation (main facade), which faces South McDuffie Street, is symmetrical and measures five-bays wide with the central, three story, three-bay-wide main block flanked by two story, one-bay-wide wings. A cornerstone is situated in the upper southwest corner of the foundation and reads:

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

JAMES A FARLEY
POSTMASTER GENERAL
LOUIS A SIMON
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

NEAL A MELICK
SUPERVISING ENGINEER

THOMAS HARLAN ELLETT
ARCHITECT

1937

The three centermost bays, capped by the simple limestone pediment, project two feet beyond the wings. A carved limestone federal eagle is centrally located at the center of the pediment.

A wide two-part splayed stairway consisting of ten granite steps leads from the street to the centrally located main entry into the building. The first five steps from the street lead to a wide landing composed of granite and herringbone-patterned brick panels. This portion of the splayed stairway has two central simple iron railings and is flanked by low, thick, granite walls, each topped by a single iron standard lamp. The next five granite steps lead from the lower landing to the granite landing situated in front of the main entry. A curved iron railing flanks this section of the stairway. The basement-level areaway, surrounded by a decorative iron balustrade, continues almost the full width of the facade, to the north and south of the centrally located staircase.

The main entry into the building consists of a set of full-light double-leaf, bronze doors topped by a one-light transom and surmounted by a one-light arch. As designed and built, the entry consisted of a set of double-leaf wood panel doors with glazed upper halves topped by a two

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light transom and surmounted by a fanlight. The current door assembly dates to the later part of the twentieth century. The entry is set into a slightly recessed limestone surround which is set within an arched brick surround. A bronze plaque affixed to the south side of the entry states that the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 13, 1971.³

The limestone beltcourse situated above the first story features bronze letters that read "G. ROSS ANDERSON, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE." Originally, the beltcourse carried incised lettering that read "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE." Within the central three bays, the second and third story windows are set into a continuous limestone surround. These windows are six-over-six lights. A white-painted spandrel panel situated between each second and third story window features a Greek key motif highlighted with tan paint. The flanking wings each have an arched window in the first story and six-over-six light window in the second story.

The north (side) elevation measures four bays wide. The first story contains four evenly spaced arched windows. The second story consists of six, six-over-six light windows. The end window openings are aligned above the first-story openings while the four centermost window bays are centered over the two central first-story window openings.

The east (rear) elevation is six bays wide. The four central bays of the elevation project slightly from the face of the elevation and are capped with a simple limestone pediment, similar to the facade. A loading dock, comprised of a poured-concrete landing and sheltered by a metal-clad canopy supported by six evenly spaced steel poles, projects from the first story of the projecting central section. The loading dock is partially enclosed with brick to accommodate an entry vestibule and enclosed loading dock area. The first-story brick walls that help support the loading dock canopy are slightly wider than the second and third stories above. A poured-concrete ramp flanked by metal pipe railings provides access to the dock on the north side, and a set of poured-concrete steps lined by a metal pipe railing is situated on the south side. Areas of dissimilar brickwork along the first story of the loading dock denote former openings that have been bricked in, most likely when the post office ceased operations in the mid-1970s. A two-over-two light, double-hung, wood-sash window is located in the northern end, and a modern single-leaf full-light steel door featuring a full-light sidelight is located slightly off-center to the south in the first story of the loading dock. A narrow one-over-one light, double-hung, wood-sash window is situated in the north elevation of the loading dock area. The south elevation of the loading dock contains a small two-over-two light, double-hung, wood-sash window. Four square window openings are located just above the loading deck canopy. Originally lighting the postal workroom, they now appear to be infilled. Two large mechanical units are located on the roof of the loading dock, partially obscuring views to these window openings.

The window openings in the projecting central section above the loading dock light the second story courtroom. They consist of four evenly spaced sets of paired, four-over-four light, double-hung, wood-sash windows, each window topped by a four-light fixed window. Concrete spandrel panels featuring a centrally located tan-painted rectangle framed by a white border are

3. The plaque refers the building's status as a contributing resource in the Anderson Historic District.

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situated underneath each window set. A small, narrow, louvered vent is centrally located in the simple limestone pediment above. On either side of the projecting central section, an arched window occupies the southernmost bay of the first story, with a single window aligned above in the second story, while a four-over-four light, double-hung, wood-sash window occupies an arched recessed opening of the northernmost bay on the first story, with a single window aligned above. The upper left light of the second story window has been replaced with a metal panel inset with a louvered vent.

Two interior brick chimneys are situated at each end of the pediment on the east (rear) elevation. A louvered metal vent is located in each side of the northernmost chimney. An exterior ladder attached to the northeast corner of the building provides access from the ground level to the roof.

The south (side) elevation is identical to the north elevation except that a small, narrow one-over-one light window is located between the first and second window bays from the front. The bottom light of this window has been replaced with a metal panel. Two second story windows contain window air conditioning units. Five poured-concrete steps, flanked by a metal pipe railing, are accessed from the southwest corner of the building and lead to a basement-level entry. The exterior walls of the stairwell are comprised of poured concrete. The basement-level entry consists of a single leaf steel door, which is located in the easternmost bay of the stairwell. Two window openings are located to the west.

Exterior Landscape Features

An ornamental metal fence, installed in 2002, surrounds the building lot from the northeast to the southwest corners. The fence also encloses a card-key accessible employee parking area located at the rear (east) of the building. A low boxwood hedge surrounds the building on the west, north, and south elevations. A grass lawn extends between the hedge and the poured-concrete sidewalk that borders the west and south sides of the property. A narrow strip of grass lawn is located on the north side between the hedge and an adjacent paved asphalt parking lot. Several deciduous trees are interspersed throughout the building lot. An aluminum flagpole is set into a concrete base at the northwest corner of the lawn. The flagpole does not appear on the original plans or in an early photograph.

Interior Description

The interior of the United States Post Office and Court House underwent extensive interior renovations in the late 1980s after the U.S. Postal Service vacated the property in the mid-1970s. At that time, the first floor interior, largely occupied by the postal workroom, was adapted for offices for federal agency use and updates and renovations were carried out on the second floor. In addition, the relocation of the U.S. Marshals Service from the second to the first floor of the building at this time necessitated interior alterations to the northeast corner of the first floor in order to accommodate security upgrades and agency offices.

The building features one primary entry in the west elevation, which facilitates public movement directly into the building's first floor lobby. The first floor is divided into office space for the

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U.S. Marshals Service, which occupies the northeast corner. The basement contains mechanical and storage spaces. The second floor is dominated by the large courtroom and its supporting offices, including the judge's chambers and a law library. The partial third story also consists of supporting offices for the U.S. District Court.

The lobby, second-floor corridor, and courtroom retain the most original detail in the building. The majority of interior alterations have occurred within the first- and-second floor office spaces in order to accommodate changing tenant needs. These spaces largely contain replacement industrial carpeting, suspended, acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting, and full height gypsum and plaster wall partitions, all of which are reversible alterations.

First Floor

The first floor of the United States Post Office and Court House contains the public lobby, main stairwell and elevator, offices for the U.S. Marshals Service, men's and women's restrooms, and various smaller offices.

Lobby

The main entry of the facade leads directly into the public lobby for the building, which stretches the width of the western side of the building. Low paneled wood walls, added in recent years to serve as handrails and facilitate movement through a movable security screening area, flank the entry to the lobby. Light-colored terrazzo panels inlaid into a dark rose-colored marble border clad the lobby floor, which is lined by a dark rose-colored marble baseboard. The plaster walls feature brown-colored marble wainscoting topped by a wood chair rail. A smooth plaster ceiling accentuated by wood crown molding caps the space. Boxed fluorescent lights are suspended from the ceiling. Wide plain pilasters are located at each end and in between each opening in the west wall. Narrow pilasters are located on the east wall and denote the former postal window openings that have since been infilled, to create unbroken plaster walls. Metal heating and air conditioning vents are interspersed throughout the west wall near the wall-ceiling juncture.

Original metal radiator units are located underneath the windows that flank the main entry. An additional radiator is located on the south wall of the elevator shaft, which is centrally located on the north end of the lobby. Inserted within the original open stairwell circa 1957, the elevator shaft is finished with plain plaster walls and the elevator doors are unornamented metal. A single-light, wood replacement door is situated to the east of the elevator and provides access into the stairwell that leads to the basement level. The main stairway to the second floor is situated in the northwest corner of the lobby, adjacent to the elevator. The stairway is comprised of marble treads, white-painted oak balustrade, and a polished oak handrail. The stairwell to the basement level consists of marble stair treads and a polished oak handrail. A single-leaf wood replacement door is located in the east wall of the lobby, to the southeast of the elevator, and provides access into a small office.

A large oil-on-canvas mural measuring fifteen feet and three inches wide by ten feet high, hangs near the ceiling of the south wall of the lobby. The wall below the mural, now plastered, had contained postal boxes. The mural, entitled *Corn, Cotton, and Tobacco Culture*, was painted in 1940 by Arthur Sinclair Covey, who was commissioned by the Section of Painting and Sculpture

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of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The mural depicts the general theme of farming. Framed by corn and tobacco plants, two men load baskets of cotton onto a wagon and a woman waits nearby with a bag of cotton, while in the field behind them, a group of laborers pick and haul cotton. The mural is held by the Fine Arts collection of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

Several other pieces of artwork are hung throughout the lobby. These range from small framed watercolor depictions of the building and landscapes, which are hung near the elevator, to a large oil painting of people and birds that hangs on the east wall of the lobby. These pieces were installed as part of the 2002 dedication ceremonies to rename the building the "G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse" and are not part of GSA's Fine Arts collection.

Corridor and Loading Area

A corridor leads from the east wall of the lobby, directly across from the main entry, to the former loading dock area of the building. The corridor jogs to the north (left) before the loading dock area in order to access the U.S. Marshals Service Area. A set of full-light, steel, double-leaf doors provides access into the corridor from the lobby. Vinyl tiles cover the corridor's floor, smooth plaster comprises the walls, and the ceiling consists of suspended acoustical tiles featuring inset fluorescent lighting. Four doors are situated in the south corridor wall and two are situated in the north. These doors consist of single-leaf wood, replacement types.

The former loading dock area, which occupies the rear of the first floor, contains the same replacement finishes and details as the corridor. The space was largely altered in 2005 to accommodate additional office and storage spaces and is currently used as an employee entrance. Accessible restrooms were also added in 2005 to the north and south sides of the loading dock area.⁴

First-Floor Office Space

A series of offices occupy the entire south side of the first floor as well as the northwest corner, to the east of the public lobby. These spaces are largely altered and contain replacement finishes, such as industrial carpeting, new plaster wall partitions, and suspended acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting that conceal the original plaster ceilings. The arched transom of the first-floor windows in these areas are painted black at the interior to filter out light; however, these arches are no longer visible at the interior due to the installation of suspended ceilings.⁵ The office in the southwest corner of the building contains an original restroom that features a small one-over-one light, fixed-sash window with frosted glass. The lower sash is inset with a small metal ventilation fan.

U.S. Marshals Service Area

The U.S. Marshals Service Area occupies the northeast corner of the first floor of the building. This area was altered circa 1986 in order to accommodate the transfer of the U.S. Marshals

4. Charles Lyons (GSA Building Manager), in discussion with author, 5 May 2009.

5. Ibid.

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Service from the second floor to the first floor of the building.⁶ The area is accessed through a secure glass-and-steel fire door located in the north wall at the northeastern end of the corridor.

The area is separated into smaller spaces to accommodate offices, surveillance and security systems, and the prisoner holding area. The offices feature industrial carpeting, plaster walls, and suspended acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting. The prisoner holding area features polished ceramic tile walls and two stainless steel holding cells. An original safe is located in the northeast corner of the U.S. Marshals Service Area.

Rear Stairway

The rear stairway, located to the east of the U.S. Marshals Service area and to the north of the loading dock area, provides additional access from the first floor to the basement. The stairway consists of painted poured-in-place concrete stair treads. A painted steel pipe railing lines the stairway.

Basement Level

The basement level is accessed by the first-floor lobby elevator, a stairway, and a rear stairway. The basement houses storage space for GSA and the U.S. District Court as well as the mechanical units for the building.

A series of corridors connect the basement level rooms. The corridors feature vinyl-tile flooring and plaster, clay tile or brick walls, painted white. The corridor ceilings are plaster but concealed by exposed piping and ductwork. Original brass ashtrays hang along the wall near the basement-level restrooms. Many of the original basement-level doors remain and consist of various wood types, featuring an inset wood or glass upper panel and a lower louvered area, set into plain wood surrounds. Replacement doors primarily consist of steel fire types.

The two basement-level restrooms retain the original white-colored ceramic wall tiles, and original pink-colored marble stall partitions; however, the partition doors have been removed. Many of the original stainless steel and porcelain plumbing fixtures remain. The basement level storage areas feature beige-colored asbestos tile or industrial carpet flooring, plaster or brick walls, and plaster ceilings with exposed piping and ductwork.

The L-shaped boiler room is located near the southeastern corner of the basement. The floor is poured-in-place concrete, the walls are brick, and the ceiling is plaster largely concealed by exposed piping and ductwork. A set of double-leaf wood doors situated in the east wall of the boiler room provides access into the former coal storage area, which occupies a narrow room in the eastern half of the basement. The coal storage area, as well as the storage room to the north, contains five evenly spaced massive concrete support columns that extend above the ceiling height.

6. Ibid.

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Second Floor

The second floor of the building contains the U.S. District courtroom and its supporting offices. The floor is accessed via the elevator and main stairway. The main stairway curves around to the east at the northwest corner of the building and provides access to the second-floor landing. An original wood sign hangs on the north wall of the stairway and reads "United States District Court." The landing and elevator area are enclosed by a painted wood balustrade topped by a polished oak handrail. An oil painting comprised of fifteen small panels was installed on the north wall of the landing in 2002. A replacement hanging brass pendant light fixture that replicates the original lights the landing.

A set of original double-leaf, one-over-one, wood-panel doors topped by a semi-arched four-light transom provides access from the landing into the second-floor corridor. The L-shaped corridor leads east and south from the landing. The corridor floor consists of light-colored terrazzo panels inlaid into a gray-colored marble border with a gray-colored marble baseboard. The walls are clad in textured-fiber wallpaper, and the roughly stucco-clad ceiling features a simple smooth molded cornice and evenly spaced hanging replacement brass pendant light fixtures. Replacement pendant light fixtures are also affixed to the corridor walls.

The eastern leg of the corridor leads to a storage room/janitor's closet, two restrooms and the two-part jury's room, which occupy the northern and northwestern ends of the floor. The restrooms retain the original marble stall partitions but consist of replacement floor and wall cladding as well as replacement fixtures. The jury's room features replacement materials including plush carpeting and a kitchenette area adjacent to the west wall. The space retains the original marble baseboard.

The southern leg of the corridor provides access into the U.S. District courtroom and the judge's chambers as well as access to the stairway that leads to the northern section of the third floor. Several movable wood benches and leather-clad chairs are located throughout this portion of the corridor to provide seating for those waiting to enter the courtroom. A set of double-leaf polished oak, paneled doors, located in the east wall of the corridor, provides access into the U.S. District courtroom. Double-leaf cloth-covered swinging doors are located at the courtroom interior.

The corridor walls to the north and south of the courtroom entry are clad in polished oak panels. The entry is flanked by wood pilasters and topped by a denticulated frieze. A brass water fountain is affixed to the wall to the northwest of the entry. A bronze seal for the U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina, hangs in a recessed area on the wall to the southwest of the courtroom entry. A movable polished oak desk is located underneath the seal.

The stairway that provides access to the northern section of the third floor is located immediately southwest of the courtroom entry. The stairway treads are accentuated by a wood band that contains the same design of a raised rectangle centrally broken by an orb as found on the building's exterior.

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The southern end of the corridor ends at a set of double-leaf polished oak doors that provide access into the judge's chambers and additional supporting offices for the U.S. District Court. The doors are flanked by polished oak pilasters that support a denticulated frieze and are set into a polished oak surround. The words "United States District Court" and "G. Ross Anderson, Jr., Judge" are painted in gold leaf on the east and west doors, respectively. The west wall of the corridor contains one set of double-leaf doors that provides access into the court reporter's office, which contains non-original details and finishes including plush carpeting, wallpaper-covered walls, and suspended acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting. A single-leaf polished wood door located to the south, in the west wall of the corridor, also provides direct access into the court reporter's office and the other connected supporting offices for the U.S. District Court.⁷

U.S. District Courtroom

The courtroom retains many of the original features and finishes that date to the period of completion. The majority of the original woodwork, including doors, wainscoting, and surrounds are painted white. The floor is covered in plush carpeting that conceals the original cork-tile flooring. Paneled wood wainscoting surrounds the room. Non-original dark green- and gold-colored acoustical panels set into wood and plaster surrounds comprise the upper portions of the walls. A simple molded wood cornice accentuates the white-painted plaster ceiling. Hanging replacement brass pendant light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling throughout the room. Three sets of replacement interior wood shutters conceal the courtroom windows situated in the east wall.

A turned spindle balustrade with a central swinging gate separates the public seating area from the rest of the courtroom. The wood jury boxes and gallery benches are classically detailed and accentuated on the front by the same paneling design found in the wainscoting.

The polished wood judge's bench and court reporter's bench are located at the southern end of the courtroom. Evenly spaced carved-wood rosettes are located along the top portion of the judge's bench. The wall behind the judge's bench is accentuated by painted wood paneling flanked by classical pilasters, which are surmounted by centered oblong paterae. A bronze seal for the U.S. District Court, District of South Carolina is centered on the decorative paneling. A door concealed within the paneling is underneath the bronze seal and provides direct access from the judge's bench into the judge's chambers.

The judge's bench is flanked to the north and south by single-leaf, paneled, wood doors that lead into the judge's chambers. Each door is set into a classically detailed wood surround and surmounted by two long decorative vents comprised of a series of small holes punched into the wall. An additional simple paneled, wood door situated in the southwest corner of the courtroom provides access to the southern section of the third floor.

7. This area was renovated around 1995 in order to convert the space from the U.S. Marshals Service area to the additional supporting offices for the court. Charles Lyons (GSA Building Manager), in discussion with the author, 5 May 2009.

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Judge's Chambers

The judge's chambers, which occupy the southern end of the second floor, consist of a series of interconnected rooms that include the judge's office, restrooms, secretary's office, and law library. These rooms were renovated in the late 1980s and retain little original detailing and finishes.⁸ The secretary's office contains an original wood chair rail and the restroom entries retain their original marble doorsills. The judge's office, which occupies the southeast corner of the chambers, is ornately finished with non-original plush carpeting, polished wood paneling on all walls, and a recessed plaster ceiling featuring inset lighting. A small staircase located in the northwest corner of the judge's office provides access to the rear of the courtroom, directly behind the judge's bench, through a door concealed in the paneling. The law library, which is located in the south-central area, features plush carpeting, smooth painted walls, and a suspended acoustical tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting.

Third Floor

The third floor is divided into two sections separated by an original wall. The southern section, which is accessed by the courtroom door, contains an additional jury room and restroom. The larger northern section, which is accessed by the second floor corridor stairway, contains a lawyer's office, restroom, and additional storage rooms.

The stairway leading to the southern third floor section consists of carpet-covered treads and an original polished oak handrail. An original simple wood balustrade topped by a polished oak handrail lines the third-floor landing. The landing features the same raised design—a rectangle centrally broken by an orb—as found on the building's exterior. Carpet covers the landing floor as well as the jury room, and wallpaper covers the walls of the jury's room. The ceiling is comprised of suspended acoustical tiles with inset fluorescent lighting. A small restroom is located in the southeast corner of the area and retains the original marble threshold.

The stairway leading to the northern third floor section consists of original marble treads, wood balustrade, and polished oak handrail. A simple wood balustrade topped by a polished oak handrail lines the third floor landing. The landing features the same raised design as found on the southern third floor landing and the building's exterior. The floors of the landing retain the original light-colored terrazzo panels inset into a gray-colored marble border and lined by a gray-colored marble baseboard. This portion of the third floor retains its original corridor doors.

A single-leaf wood door featuring a frosted glass light with the words "309 Probation" painted in gold leaf provides access into the lawyer's office located in the southern section. The office consists of industrial carpeting, smooth plaster walls featuring wood wainscoting, and a suspended acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting. A set of double-leaf wood doors provides access into additional storage rooms, located to the north of the lawyer's office.

8. This area was renovated circa 1995 in order to convert the space from the U.S. Marshals Service area to the additional supporting offices for the court. Charles Lyons (GSA Building Manager), in discussion with author, 5 May 2009.

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Alterations

The United States Post Office and Court House retains a high degree of exterior architectural integrity as alterations to the facade and side elevations of the building have been minimal and generally completed in-kind using the materials, finishes, and details of the original building. Exterior alterations to the building include the application of signage on the facade relating to the 2002 renaming of the building as the G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse; replacement of main entry doors; and the alterations to the loading dock circa 1986.

Overall, the interior retains its architectural integrity from the period of completion (1938) in the public areas, including the first floor lobby, second floor corridor, and U.S. District courtroom. The building retains the original 1940 mural installed as part of a New Deal art program administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and located above the former postal boxes. The remaining interior spaces have been highly altered in order to meet the needs of the tenants or comply with the accessibility standards. Many of these spaces have new interior finishes that include industrial carpeting or vinyl tile flooring, new plaster wall partitions, and suspended acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting; however, the majority of these changes are reversible.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938-1940

Significant Dates

1938; 1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A., Supervising Architect

Ellett, Harlan Thomas, Architect

Melick, Neal A., Supervising Engineer

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, South Carolina, possesses local significance under Criterion A for Politics/Government as a notable example of a federal government building in Anderson, Anderson County, South Carolina, erected under the New Deal-era federal programs established in the 1930s to relieve the economic problems caused by the Great Depression. The erection of the building was perceived as a symbol of community pride and achievement and as a representation of the federal presence in Anderson. The building is also locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a representative example of the Colonial Revival architectural style employed in federal building projects of the New Deal period. The United States Post Office and Court House is significant for the years 1938, the date of the completion of construction, through 1940, the date of the installation of the federally commissioned artwork.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Narrative:

Brief History of Anderson, Anderson County, South Carolina

The small city of Anderson is located in the upper northwest corner of the state of South Carolina on the Piedmont Plateau. The city borders Interstate 85, a major north-south corridor throughout the southeast, and is approximately 116 miles northeast of Columbia, the state's capital, 127 miles north of Atlanta, Georgia, and 132 miles south of Charlotte, North Carolina. Anderson serves as the county seat of Anderson County and encompasses approximately fourteen square miles in the geographical center of the county.⁹

Anderson has served as the seat of Anderson County since the town was created in 1826 after the Pendleton District, established in 1798, was divided into two counties—Anderson and Pickens. The city and county of Anderson were named after native Virginian General Robert Anderson, a Revolutionary War hero, wealthy planter and military leader, who, several decades before the war, had settled in what would become Anderson County, South Carolina. The division of the Pendleton District did not reach completion until two years later, in 1828, when the village of Anderson was formally laid out with a square for business and four boundary streets for three city blocks.¹⁰

9. Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, *The History of Anderson County, South Carolina*.

10. Frank A. Dickson, *Journeys into the Past: The Anderson Region's Heritage* (Anderson, South Carolina: Anderson County Bicentennial Committee, 1975), 7.

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By 1833, the town of Anderson was incorporated and included a courthouse, jail, various houses, and stores. The town quickly became the center of commerce for the surrounding areas as farmers came to sell produce and buy from area merchants. Early farmers primarily grew corn and raised hogs; however, cotton soon became the cash crop of the area. Manufacturing was established and included gristmills, sawmills, wagon makers, and shoemakers.¹¹ During the Civil War, approximately five-thousand Anderson County residents joined the Confederacy, and the town, which remained intact throughout the war, cemented its role as a manufacturing center.

The small town continued to thrive and grow into a city throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century. In 1895, innovative engineer William C. Whitner ran the first successfully documented experimental electric line from a water mill located in the high shoals area of the Rocky River in Anderson County into the city's mills, a distance of approximately six miles. As a result, Anderson was the first city in the United States to have a continuous supply of electric power. Two years later, in 1897, the first electric cotton gin was built in Anderson County. Consequently, Anderson became known as "The Electric City," a moniker that it retains to the present day.¹²

Throughout the twentieth century, Anderson continued to grow, largely due to its prosperity in textile manufacturing and diversified farming. In the 1980s, like many other American cities, Anderson experienced a decline, particularly in the downtown area, which consequently left many buildings vacant. By the mid-1990s, the city council devised a master plan to stimulate the revitalization of the downtown. By the end of 1999, Phase I of the revitalization was complete, with new, wider sidewalks; repaved streets with benches; newly planted trees and flowers; and water features. The \$2.7 million investment in turn sparked a rush of private investment.¹³

Anderson continues to grow and prosper, particularly due to its proximity to the heavily traveled I-85 corridor, which since its creation in 1956 has undergone continuous expansions and improvements. In 2014, the city, with a population of 27,181, was at the center of a rapidly growing urbanized area.¹⁴ Anderson continues to owe its longevity and prosperity to manufacturing—textiles, automotive parts, and other diversified products—as well as its agricultural heritage.¹⁵

Early Federal Buildings in Anderson, South Carolina

In 1826, federal mail service began in Anderson, South Carolina, with Micajah Webb serving as the first postmaster.¹⁶ The post office shared space with a drugstore and bookstore in a small one-

11. Debbie Dahlhouse, *Anderson: Shining Star of the South* (Montgomery, Alabama: Community Communications, 2000), 21.

12. Jim White, "Anderson Area History," (Unpublished, available from the Pendleton Historical, Recreational, and Tourism Commission, Pendleton, South Carolina).

13. Dahlhouse, *Anderson: Shining Star of the South*, 21, 107.

14. "Anderson, South Carolina," <http://www.city-data.com/city/Anderson-South-Carolina.html>, accessed 29 June 2017.

15. Dahlhouse, *Anderson: Shining Star of the South*, 13.

16. Franklin Acker, "About Town: Post Offices and Postmasters," Available from the Post Offices Vertical File, Pendleton District Historical, Recreational, and Tourism Commission, Pendleton, South Carolina. According to

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story building owned by Dr. Edmund Webb located on the west side of the public square. After Dr. Webb's multifunctional building was destroyed by fire in April 1845, Anderson's Post Office moved serially to various buildings, including other general stores and residences, until 1910.¹⁷ The rapid growth of the city throughout the late nineteenth century precipitated by the thriving textile mills necessitated the need for a permanent post office and federal building. In 1910, the first federal building in the city, erected in the Neoclassical Revival style under the supervision of Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor, was opened on North Main Street in downtown Anderson.¹⁸ This 1910 federal building, which accommodated both a federal courtroom and the Anderson U.S. Post Office, was erected eight years after rural free postal delivery was made permanent throughout the United States.

Even during the construction phase, Anderson's first federal building and permanent post office was deemed too small due in part to the unexpected popularity of the parcel post service instituted by the U.S. Postal Service in 1913 as well as the increasing number of federal court cases.¹⁹ Initially, planners considered expanding the 1910 federal building, but those considerations were soon dismissed due to space limitations and the necessity of relocation during the construction. Yet, due to funding limitations and the entry of the United States into World War I, the crowded 1910 federal building continued to operate as Anderson's post office and federal courthouse over the next two decades.²⁰

Planning for the United States Post Office and Court House, 1935 to 1937

Serious consideration of a new federal building for Anderson followed the passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, which provided funds for federal building construction for the first time since 1913. With the expansion of programs initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the early 1930s, government officials began campaigning strongly for a new federal building in Anderson. Led by Congressman and Anderson resident John C. Taylor as well as federal Judge M.L. Bonham and federal Judge H.H. Watkins, government officials started searching for a new location that would include a lot large enough to construct a more spacious and modern federal building.²¹

Congressman Taylor began the process of searching for a suitable location for Anderson's new federal building at the outset of his term in 1933. By December 1935, Taylor had secured approximately \$200,000 in funding for the new building, and officials were searching for a desirable lot upon which to build.²² On December 11, 1935, post office officials met with

local histories, the post office at Anderson was originally called "Anderson Courthouse" but had been shortened to "Anderson" by 1894.

17. Ibid.

18. Roy Ethridge, *Anderson County, 1929-1972* (Williamston, South Carolina: The Journal, 2003), 270.

19. Ibid; The parcel post service provided in-home delivery of small packages containing foodstuffs, tobacco, dry goods, and other commodities not easily available to farmers and other rural residents.

20. "Contract for New Federal Building to Be Let in Few Weeks," *Anderson Daily Mail* (Anderson, South Carolina), 6 February 1937. The 1910 Anderson United States Post Office is still extant and houses the Sullivan-King Mortuary.

21. Ibid.

22. "Inspect Again for Post Office," *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 7 December 1935.

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downtown Anderson merchants to discuss the location of the new building. Several Andersonians stressed that having the new building located in the southern part of the business district would bolster future growth and prosperity for the city. According to local reports, businessman George Fant received the loudest round of applause when he declared that the most important issue to the city is the “immediate erection of the building...and I want to assure you gentlemen that wherever you put it, it will be satisfactory to the people here.”²³ Fant’s sentiment reflected the pressing need for a larger, more modern federal building in Anderson.

By November 1936, the site of the former Anderson Female Academy at the northeast corner of South McDuffie and East Market streets had been bought and cleared of a two-story frame house and brick veneered garage to make way for Anderson’s new federal building.²⁴ The design of the building was credited to Louis A. Simon, serving as Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, and to architect Thomas Harlan Ellett, who was working under the supervision of Simon.²⁵ An April 9, 1937 article in the *Anderson Independent* announced that the government was seeking bids to “construct a new federal building that would house, in addition to a courtroom and post office, a large number of federal offices for various departments and agencies.”²⁶

On May 1, 1937, the local newspaper prematurely announced that the new federal building would cost \$175,243.00, as presented by the lowest bidder A. Farnall Blair of Lake Charles, Louisiana.²⁷ However, an article published almost two weeks later announced that Beers Construction Company of Atlanta, Georgia, was awarded the contract after presenting a lower bid of \$167,040.00.²⁸

A subsequent article published on June 13, 1937, revealed that work on the new building would begin shortly and that the contractor was to use as much local labor as possible with the payroll averaging between \$300 and \$1,000 weekly. The contract for the grading of the site was awarded to E.H. Holiday, a local contractor who was also responsible for unloading and hauling all materials used in construction of the new federal building.²⁹ Shortly thereafter, construction began on Anderson’s new three story, Colonial Revival style federal building.

23. “Strong Sentiment is Shown for Todd Lot Federal Site,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 12 December 1935.

24. The Anderson Female Academy operated from 1882 until 1895. Description of the structures extant at the start of construction comes from the 1936 site plan.

25. “Local Post Office Plans are now 80% Completed,” *Anderson Daily Mail* (Anderson, South Carolina), 21 November 1936.

26. “Asks Bids on New Building,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 9 April 1937.

27. “\$175, 243 is Lowest Bid Submitted for Construction of Federal Building,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 1 May 1937.

28. “Work on New Federal Building will Get Underway on June 15,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 12 May 1937.

29. “Work on Anderson’s New Federal Building Gets Underway Monday,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 13 June 1937.

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Design of the United States Post Office and Court House

Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon

In 1934, Louis A. Simon, at the age of sixty-six, succeeded James A. Wetmore as supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury Department.³⁰ At the time of his appointment, Simon had worked for the Office of the Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Department, for almost four decades and was well known to the architectural community. The 1933 reorganization of the federal architecture program placed the newly named Public Works Branch at a lower level within the U.S. Treasury Department than the old Office of the Supervising Architect (the Office) had previously enjoyed. However, Louis Simon retained control over the architecture of the federal buildings designed within the Office. Simon served as supervising architect from 1934 until 1941, during which time the United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, South Carolina was designed and constructed. In this capacity, Simon oversaw design and construction for post offices, federal courthouses, custom houses, mints, assay offices, public health service hospitals and federal office buildings throughout the country.

Louis A. Simon was born in Baltimore in 1867 and was educated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After an extended tour throughout Europe, he opened an architectural office in Baltimore in 1894. Two years later, Supervising Architect Edward A. Crane brought Simon into the Office, where Simon spent the rest of his working career.³¹ Upon Simon's retirement in 1941, the *Federal Architect* praised Simon for his leadership and insistence on quality designs:

Louis A. Simon will have a thousand or more buildings throughout the land, some bearing his name, some not, which are tokens of his architectural ability. Words concerning that ability are relatively ineffectual. It is the buildings themselves which are the best commentary of his judgment and his service to the country.³²

Simon died in 1958 at the age of ninety-one.

The influence of Louis A. Simon is initially noted during James A. Wetmore's tenure, as Simon was the principal architectural designer while Wetmore directed the Office (1915-1934).³³ Simon favored classical styles of architecture, although, beginning in the mid-1930s, the work of the Office was greatly influenced by a new interest in modernism. In addition to the Colonial Revival style, Simon utilized a simplified classical style that blended modern and classical elements, characterized by symmetrical massing and relatively plain surfaces.³⁴ This style has come to be known as Simplified Classical or Stripped Classical. However, under Simon's supervision, most of Office's designs in South Carolina are more closely related to early American architectural traditions and have been described as "severe, conservative Colonial

30. Antoinette Lee, *Architects to the Nation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 258.

31. *Ibid.*

32. *Ibid.*, 280.

33. James A Wetmore was trained as a lawyer, not an architect, and thus used the title, acting supervising architect, throughout his tenure in acknowledgement his lack of professional architectural qualifications.

34. Lee, *Architects to the Nation*, 260.

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Revival style buildings,” a description that is represented in the style and form of the Anderson federal building.³⁵

New Deal Federal Buildings in South Carolina

Under Simon’s supervision, the Office is credited with the design and construction of approximately fourteen federal buildings in South Carolina, including the one in Anderson.³⁶ In addition to the Anderson building, GSA today retains only four of these buildings: Spartanburg’s Donald Stuart Russell Federal Courthouse (1931); Columbia’s J. Bratton Davis U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse (1936); Greenville’s Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse (1937); and, Aiken’s Charles E. Simons, Jr., Federal Court House (1937).³⁷ The four buildings vary considerably in size as well as architectural style, although all are in the classical tradition. Of moderate size, like the Anderson building, the Aiken and Spartanburg buildings are also clad in red brick with light colored masonry trim and display aspects of the Colonial Revival style. However, each differs significantly from the others in massing, form, roof type, and interpretation of the Colonial Revival idiom. The Columbia and Greenville buildings are significantly larger and are clad in light colored masonry. The Renaissance Revival style building in Columbia exhibits a relatively high degree of ornamentation and is unusual among federal buildings of the period in that it was constructed of poured, monolithic concrete. Clad in granite and limestone, the Greenville building exhibits the emphasis on planar surfaces and abstracted classical detailing that characterizes the Simplified Classical style.

Of these buildings, only the 1931 United States Post Office and Court House in Spartanburg was designed entirely within the Office; the others were designed by an architectural firm under the supervision of the Office. The red-brick Spartanburg building is square in plan, three stories in height, and capped with a hipped roof clad in standing seam copper. Decorative features include copper cresting at the roofline, limestone quoining at corners, two-story engaged Corinthian columns on the façade, and ornamental cast iron spandrel panels between the first and second story windows. Representative of the Georgian Revival style, a variant of the Colonial Revival style, the Spartanburg building exhibits little of the abstraction of ornamentation seen in later federal buildings, such as the United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson.

*Architect Thomas Harlan Ellett*³⁸

Thomas Harlan Ellett, a New York-based architect, worked on several New Deal-era federal buildings. His designs, like Simon’s, were known for combining “government classic” with the elegant simplicity of the 1930s and 1940s modern styles. In addition, Ellett also designed private residences with integral gardens throughout the northeast. In 1937, Ellett, under the supervision of Simon, completed his Colonial Revival style design for the new United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson.

35. John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935* (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 160-161.

36. Ibid.

37 Each of these buildings is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The registration numbers are as follows: SG100000619; 79003375; 14000300; and, 03001288.

38. The Thomas Harlan Ellett Collection “Thomas Harlan Ellett (1880-1951),”

<https://www.design.upenn.edu/architectural-archives/thomas-harlan-ellett-1880-1951>, accessed 29 June 2017.

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Thomas Harlan Ellett, born in 1880, graduated first in his architecture class in 1906 from the University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduation, Ellett won the Gold Brooke Medal and continued his studies as a fellow at the American Academy in Rome. His impeccably conceived residences featuring integral beautifully designed gardens won him acclaim and prestige throughout the United States and beyond. In 1933, Ellett was awarded his highest honor, the Gold Medal of the Architectural League of New York, for his design of the Cosmopolitan Club in New York City. In 1937, he designed the cemetery and memorial of the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France. During the 1930s and 1940s, Ellett was employed in the design of various federal buildings, including the Bronx Central Annex-U.S. Post Office in New York and the United States Post Office and Court House in Covington, Kentucky. Ellett continued to work, largely designing private residences and gardens up until his death in 1951.

Ellett-Designed Federal Buildings

Ellett's federal buildings in Bronx and Covington are both considerably larger than the Anderson United States Post Office and Court House and differ from it stylistically. Completed in 1937, the Bronx Central Annex-U.S. Post Office in Bronx, New York, is a monumentally scaled Simplified Classical style building.³⁹ Encompassing an entire city block, it is among the largest post office buildings constructed in New York during the New Deal era. A simple rectangular box set upon a granite terrace surrounded by a granite railing, it has unornamented walls of grey brick punched at regular intervals by full-height arched openings filled with multi-light arched windows. Two figural sculptures project boldly from the wall on either side of the three central entry bays and the interior public spaces are ornamented with a series of thirteen murals completed in 1940. The design elegantly combines classical simplicity with modernism. Completed in 1941, the United States Post Office and Court House, Covington, Kentucky is similar to the Bronx building in that it is a simple rectangular box with smooth walls and full-height punched openings filled with large multi-light windows. However, classicism is even further abstracted and a severe modernism predominates in the design of the Covington building. The walls and piers between the windows are taut, planar expanses of smooth stone; the window openings are dramatic rectangular ribbons; the industrial style window sash recedes within the openings; the bas-relief sculptures above the entry bays and piers are highly stylized and flat; and, the terrace is surrounded by a minimalist metal railing.

Colonial Revival Architectural Style⁴⁰

The Colonial Revival architectural style dominated both public and domestic building styles throughout the nation from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century. An amalgamation of Georgian and Federal stylistic details forms the backbone of the Colonial Revival style, which drew upon the architecture of the American colonies and early republic and is symbolically associated with the founding of the United States of America. A renewed interest in Colonial architecture began during the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, in

³⁹ The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (80002584) on May 6, 1980.

⁴⁰ Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1993), 159-160.

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conjunction with the one-hundredth anniversary celebration of the Declaration of Independence. The highly publicized travels and early projects of the architects, McKim, Mead, and White, in the 1880s further advocated revisiting Jacobean, Georgian, Federal and other early Colonial styles. The *White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs*, first published in 1914, widely disseminated drawings and photographs of early American building details, encouraging accurate reproduction of Federal and Georgian styles. However, more commonly, features of these specific historical styles were combined and loosely applied in the Colonial Revival style. The style enjoyed great popularity in the United States in the period between 1915 and 1935, when it was employed for a wide range of building types.⁴¹

The Colonial Revival style was used extensively by the Office from the late 1890s to the early 1940s.⁴² James Knox Taylor, supervising architect from 1897 to 1912, was a proponent of the use of this and other styles, such as the Neoclassical Revival style, that reflected classical influences in federal architecture. The Colonial Revival style remained popular in federal architectural design through the tenures of Wetmore and Simon, due in part to its association with democratic ideals and the nation's birth and the ease that its symmetry lent to standardized design practices.

The Colonial Revival style consists of buildings that are generally rectangular in plan, with a minimum of minor projections and a symmetrical façade. Roofs may be a variety of types, including side-gabled, hipped, and gambrel, with detailed eaves, pediments and classical cornices. The entry is typically accentuated, often with a fanlight or pediment, supported by pilasters. Windows are typically double-hung sash, frequently in adjacent pairs. Although a relatively modest example, the United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, South Carolina, conveys the Colonial Revival style through its symmetrical facade, arched and multi-light sash windows, fanlights, classically detailed eaves and door surrounds and red brick walls with contrasting light colored trim.

As the influence of modernism grew in the 1930s, the Simplified Classical style (also known as Stripped Classical) which combined classicism with modernism, was increasingly utilized in the design of federal buildings. The Simplified Classical style had the advantage of conveying both an association with the nation's past and with modernity and optimism for the future. In addition, the spare ornamentation of the Simplified Classical style fit well with the government's need to promote economy in the face of the Great Depression.

There has been no study of the distribution of federal building architectural styles in the United States. Nor is it clear if there was a deliberate policy on the part of supervising architect to choose designs to match regional tastes of types of construction; however, the selection of the Colonial Revival style for the design of Anderson's United States Post Office and Court House may have been partially based on respect for the town's existing local building styles. Established in 1826, the town does not possess a significant body of Colonial-era architecture.

41 Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2003), 325-326.

42. Boland, *National Register Bulletin*, Section III, 3-5.

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However, it does possess a number of mid- and late-nineteenth century houses inspired by a variety of classical revival styles as well as a substantial group of Neoclassical Revival, Georgian Revival and Colonial Revival style buildings in the downtown and adjacent areas, including: St. John's Methodist Church (1912); the former Carnegie Library Building (1907); the John C. Calhoun Hotel (1925); and, the Sullivan-King Mortuary/former United States Post Office (1910).

United States Post Office and Court House, 1937-2010

Construction of Anderson's new federal building began in mid-June 1937 by Atlanta, Georgia-based Beers Construction Company using architectural plans designed by Thomas Harlan Ellett under the supervision of Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon. Brick, accented by limestone and granite, covered the building's exterior. A centrally located door accessed via granite staircases provided the main entry into the building through the facade (west elevation). The original plans called for marble wainscoting in the main lobby with marble floor borders and a terrazzo floor. Restrooms throughout the building also featured marble wainscoting and stall partitions.

A photograph of the cleared and graded site prepared for the new federal building ran on the front page of the June 18, 1937 edition of the *Anderson Independent*. The image featured a centrally placed sign that read: "This project being constructed under the control of the U.S. Treasury Department Public Buildings Branch Procurement Division." The photograph caption described the sign as "one of the most important signs of the times erected in Anderson in many a day."⁴³ This sentiment reflected the community's strong belief in the need for a larger post office and courthouse, as well in the project's ability to provide numerous jobs to the locally unemployed.

According to the local paper, the new building was to be three stories tall with a large basement. The main entrance would lead to the post office lobby, with the postal workroom comprising most of the first floor and a loading dock at the rear. The second and third floors of the building were devoted almost entirely to the federal court activities. Offices for the U.S. Marshals Service, suites allocated for the clerk of court, private offices for the federal judge, federal library, and a private office for the court stenographer were to be located on the south and west sides of the large courtroom. Two offices for the district attorney, as well as public restrooms, were to be located on the north side of the second floor. The partial third floors were to house the jury rooms as well as a private office for the probation officer of the district. The basement was to provide additional storage space, as well as house the mechanical units and rest and recreational rooms for the postal employees.⁴⁴

On August 28, 1937, officials laid the cornerstone for the building in an elaborate ceremony open to the public.⁴⁵ The building was approximately one-tenth complete at the time of the cornerstone laying ceremony. A crowd gathered in the rain to see "for the first time in 32 years,

43. "Signs of the Times," *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 18 June 1937.

44. "Make Progress Here," *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 26 July 1937.

45. "Elaborate Ceremony is Planned For Laying Cornerstone Of New Federal Building on August 28," *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 13 August 1937.

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special exercises...held in Anderson in conjunction with the laying of the new cornerstone of a public building.”⁴⁶ J. Austin Latimer of Washington, D.C., a special assistant to Postmaster General James A. Farley, and Federal Judge H.H. Watkins served as the keynote speakers. The cornerstone laying proceedings were broadcast on local radio station WAIM, with the latter half of the ceremony taking place inside the county courthouse because of the rain. Anderson Postmaster John E. Wingington was assisted by Miss Elizabeth Webb, great-great neice of Micajah Webb, Anderson’s first Postmaster, in the laying of the cornerstone. The customary Masonic use of oil and wine was employed in the ceremony, as well as a trowel made from Mexican silver dollars once owned by General Lafayette.⁴⁷ A long list of items were sealed within a steel box and placed inside the cornerstone to commemorate the ceremony. These items included: complete roster of officers of Anderson County and city officials; *Traditions and History of Anderson County* by Mrs. Louise Vandiver; directory of trustees and teachers of Anderson’s public schools; roster of officers and members of the local American Legion; historical sketch of Anderson Public Library; brochure outlining the history of the Anderson U.S. Post Office and postmasters from its establishment through 1937; copy of original program of the 21st Annual South Carolina Rural Letter Carriers Association; *Anderson, South Carolina* by the Anderson Chamber of Commerce; collection of 1937 silver coins; copy of daily newspapers; and a brochure of the local radio station WAIM.⁴⁸

The construction costs amounted to over \$190,000 by the completion of the building more than nine months later.⁴⁹ Judge H.H. Watkins had the honor of being the first person to establish offices in the new federal building on May 13, 1938, with the first session of the new district court set to convene eleven days later.⁵⁰ Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Marshals Service and other tenants moved in. On Monday, May 23, 1938, the post office was officially transferred from the overcrowded 1910 federal building to its new headquarters in the United States Post Office and Court House.⁵¹ A small dedication ceremony open to the public for the new federal courtroom took place on May 24, 1938 and included the singing of “America” by the assembly, presentation and acceptance of flag, invocation, and welcome by Postmaster James Wingington, who subsequently turned over the second and third floors to the custody of the U.S. District Court.⁵²

46. “Cornerstone Anderson’s New Federation Building Be Laid This Afternoon; Elaborate Ceremony,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 28 August 1937.

47. “Place Cornerstone of U.S. Building,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 29 August 1937. In 1825, General Lafayette returned to the United States to visit the former colonies and it was during his brief stay in Camden, South Carolina, that he assisted in laying the cornerstone of the monument erected in honor of his friend, Baron DeKalb. The trowel that was used on that occasion was used over 110 years later in the cornerstone laying ceremony for the new Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Anderson.

48. Ibid.

49. “Final Inspection of Anderson Post Office is Set,” *Anderson Daily Mail* (Anderson, South Carolina), 26 April 1938.

50. “Watkins First to Move Into New Building,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 13 May 1938.

51. “Post Office be Closed Saturday, New Federal Building Opens Monday,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 18 May 1938. The old post office building was subsequently handed over to the county.

52. “Federal Court To Open in New U.S. Building Tomorrow,” *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 23 May 1938.

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The relatively small size of the federal building relates to the perceived federal importance of Anderson, but its construction was a source of considerable community pride. The construction of the federal building provided jobs to the locally unemployed and utilized local and regional materials such as brick and Georgia granite. The 1938 interior included a prominent staircase from the first floor to the second floor in the northwest corner as well as terrazzo floors and marble wainscoting, all interior features characteristic of federal buildings erected during the tenure of Louis A. Simon.⁵³

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Section of Painting and Sculpture commissioned artist Arthur Covey to paint a mural that would hang in the postal lobby of the federal building. Covey subsequently painted *Corn, Cotton, and Tobacco Culture*, an oil-on-canvas mural that was hung above the postal boxes on the south wall of the lobby in May 1940. Covey's mural depicts the general theme of farming, which Covey felt was the nation's number one economic problem.⁵⁴ Covey sought to portray the agriculture of northwestern South Carolina by showing three crops typical of the region. Of the people depicted in the mural, Covey wrote:

My characters are American citizens, descended from several generations in the South who stuck to their lands in the reconstruction days and fought their own economic problems. They are not share croppers, nor have they ever been on relief. They are intelligent planters who plan their crops realistically. I have shown no children working in the field because they have been sent to school. These are the people who believe in the New South.⁵⁵

Covey painted three life-sized figures of two white men and one woman grouped around the rear of a wagon being which they are loading with cotton. While Covey did not show children, he did depict African Americans working in the field behind the three figures in the foreground. The white and African Americans figures are clearly separated in the composition. New Deal muralists were expected to respect local sensitivities. Undoubtedly, racial sensitivities required special attention, particularly in the South. Other postal murals in South Carolina depict scenes with agricultural workers. None of these appear to show whites and African Americans working together, and only the Anderson mural shows whites laboring.⁵⁶

53. "Federal Court To Open in New U.S. Building Tomorrow," *Anderson Independent* (Anderson, South Carolina), 23 May 1938.

54. Letter from Arthur Covey to Forbes Watson, Section of Painting and Sculpture, 4 March 1940. On file in the Anderson Federal Building Vertical File, Pendleton District Historical, Recreational, and Tourism Commission, Pendleton, South Carolina.

55. Press Release, "Mural Painting by Arthur Covey: Corn, Cotton, and Tobacco Culture," 10 May 1940. GSA's Fine Arts Division files, Central Office, Washington, D.C.

56. Thirteen murals dating from 1938 to 1942 are known to have been commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts for South Carolina federal buildings. Of the extant murals, six including Anderson depict agricultural laborers. Murals with related subject matter are located in Batesburg (<http://www.wpamurals.com/Batesbur.htm>); Greer (<http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/greenville/S10817723069/pages/S1081772306910.htm>); Kingstree (<http://www.wpamurals.com/kingstre.htm>); Walterboro (<http://www.wpamurals.com/Walterbo.htm>); and Woodruff (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lishinsky#/media/File:Lishinsky_woodruff_mural.JPG).

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Arthur Sinclair Covey (1877-1960) was born in Illinois and studied at the Art Institute of Chicago as well as in Europe. On returning to the United States, he assisted in the creation of an award-winning mural for the 1914-1915 Panama Pacific Exposition and became recognized as an accomplished muralist, later teaching mural painting at the National Academy of Art and Design School in New York. Prior to the mural for the United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, Covey also received commissions to paint murals for the U.S. Post Offices in Bridgeport and Torrington, Connecticut.⁵⁷ Titled, *Bridgeport Manufacturing*, the 1936 Bridgeport mural, depicts in three panels men working at various tasks in local industries. Titled, *Episodes in the life of John Brown*, the 1937 Torrington mural is composed of three scenes from the life of the Torrington-born abolitionist. The two smaller paintings depict Brown as a boy and a young man, while the third and larger painting depicts Brown as a mature and heroic figure leading a group of African American settlers.⁵⁸

The 1938 United States Post Office and Court House was the last major public edifice to be constructed in the city prior to World War II. However, due to the increasing size of Anderson, government officials recognized that the new building would eventually need to be expanded or the offices would have to be relocated to larger facilities. By 1940, virtually all of the postal boxes were rented, and there was no room in the building to construct additional postal boxes.⁵⁹ When designed, the new federal building was intended to serve Anderson residents for at least the next twenty-five years. Therefore, by the late 1960s, officials announced the development of a new \$1 million post office building to be erected at North McDuffie and Calhoun streets, which would assume the role as the main postal distribution office for Anderson. Subsequently, all postal functions were removed from the first floor of the 1938 federal building by 1971 when the U.S. Postal Service became a quasi-federal agency.⁶⁰

In 1971, the U.S. District Court ceased using the building, and the building sat vacant until Anderson resident, Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. was appointed to the U.S. District Court in May 1980.⁶¹ Judge Anderson occupied temporary offices on the first floor until modern updates and renovations were completed on both the first and second floors in November 1986. These alterations also included the transfer of the U.S. Marshals Service from their original second floor space to the first floor. Changes included the installation of new wall partitions in the first floor, acoustical-tile suspended ceilings, industrial carpeting, and inset fluorescent lighting. The majority of these changes are reversible without damaging the building's original finishes.

57 Press release, "Mural Painting by Arthur Covey."

58 WPA Murals, <http://www.wpamurals.com/connecticut.htm>, accessed August 24, 2017.

59. Ethridge, *Anderson County, 1929-1972*, 35.

60. *Ibid.*, 294.

61. Judge George Ross Anderson, Jr., was born in Equinox Mill, a village just outside of Anderson, in 1929. He attended law school at the University of South Carolina and won a two year term on the South Carolina House of Representatives. He only served one term, but continued to be involved in the legal community, working as a trial lawyer. In May 1980, at the recommendation of Senator Ernest F. Hollings, President George Bush appointed G. Ross Anderson, Jr. to the U.S. District Court judgeship. From the time of his appointment until his retirement in 2016, Judge Anderson, Jr., maintained his permanent office in the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Anderson.

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In 2001, Senator Ernest Hollings, from South Carolina, presented a bill to the House of Representatives to re-designate the United States Post Office and Court House in honor of Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr., as a fitting tribute to his service to Anderson, South Carolina, and the United States.⁶² On October 26, 2001, the bill was passed and later signed into law by President George W. Bush.⁶³

On April 5, 2002, ceremonies were held to honor Judge Anderson, Jr., and the renaming of the federal building as the G. Ross Anderson, Jr., Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. According to a local newspaper article, the “crowd attending the 90-minute dedication amounted to a Who’s Who of the state’s legal community, including all his [Judge Anderson, Jr.] fellow U.S. district judges and U.S. magistrates, two state Supreme Court justices, scores of state judges and countless politicians from across the state.”⁶⁴ Prior to the ceremony, “the building was repainted inside and out...the sidewalk and steps were sandblasted, and dozens of American flags were draped from a new wrought-iron fence girdling the structure.”⁶⁵

The United States Post Office and Court House has served as permanent offices for only two federal judges since its completion in 1938. Henry Hitt Watkins was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 and maintained his office at the federal building upon its completion in 1938 until his death in 1947. In 2009, Judge Anderson assumed senior status and in 2016 retired.⁶⁶

The Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Public Works Administration

The Office of the Supervising Architect (the Office) of the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department) was responsible for the construction of federal buildings throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Office was created within the Treasury Department in 1852 as a response to the enormous increase in federal construction. The Office was given responsibility for all architectural design and construction supervision. One of the earliest innovations of the Office was the development of standardized building types to house the custom house, post office, and court house functions. The architectural style selected for these buildings reflected prevailing national taste. The scope of the Office is reflected in the increased number of federal buildings, from twenty-three in 1853, to 297 by 1892.⁶⁷

62. Congress.Gov Website, “House of Representatives Bill 2590,” <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/2590?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr+2590+%5C%22G.+Ross+Anderson%5C%22%22%5D%7D&r=>, accessed 24 August 2017.

63. Ibid.

64. Nicholas Charalambous, “Ceremony Draws Hundreds,” *Independent-Mail* (Anderson, South Carolina), 6 April 2002.

65. Ibid.

66. “George Ross, Anderson, Jr.,” <https://www.fjc.gov/history/judge/anderson-george-ross-jr.>, accessed 29 June 2017.

67. Lois A. Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1978), 202.

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From 1895 to 1933, the Office reported to the Treasury Department. In the 1920s, the Office was divided into a Technical Branch and an Administrative Branch. The Technical Branch included a division responsible for project costs and accounting; a drafting division, including a superintendent who greatly influenced design practices; a structural division; a federal buildings program to achieve relief. These efforts were formalized in 1933, when the Public Works Administration (PWA) was organized to give structure to the recovery effort.

World War I and the Public Buildings Act of 1926

World War I brought the work of the Office to a halt due to the strain that the financial, industrial, and transportation resources placed on the country. The only buildings constructed during this period were those required for wartime use and those already under construction. New building construction commenced by 1922; however, the postponement of many projects authorized by the Public Buildings Act of 1913 and a backlog of new building requests necessitated the development of a major public buildings program. This resulted in the passage of a new Public Buildings Act on May 25, 1926.⁶⁸

The Public Buildings Act of 1926 contained three principal provisions. First, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Postmaster General were directed to conduct a nationwide survey to determine the need for postal facilities with the intent that new facilities would be based upon need rather than political influence. Second, the Office was permitted to consult private architects in "special cases." The staff of the supervising architect had previously handled all projects since James Knox Taylor decided in 1904 to effectively bar private architects from federal construction projects. Finally, the act provided for the continuation of building design standardization.⁶⁹ The building needs survey of 1926 resulted in the following:

- Doubling the \$100 million previously allocated through the Act of 1926;
- The construction of at least two new buildings per state; and
- No buildings constructed in towns where postal receipts were less than \$10,000.⁷⁰

President Herbert Hoover worked with the U.S. Congress to increase allocations for the buildings program in both 1930 and 1931 as the nation suffered the impacts of the Great Depression; however, the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt substantially expanded the program.⁷¹

The Great Depression and the Reorganization of the U.S. Treasury Department

The building industry began to suffer from the stock market crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression in the early 1930s. Using provisions of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, officials promoted employment within the building trades. The U.S. Congress passed an amendment to the 1926 Act, known as the Keyes-Elliott Bill, in 1930 to provide "increased

68. Lee, *Architects to the Nation*, 231-232, 239.

69. Louis Melius, *The American Postal Service: History of the Postal Service from the Earliest Times*, (Washington, D.C.: Louis Melius, 1917), 40-41.

70. Beth Boland, *National Register of Historic Places, Bulletin 13*, "How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1984), Section II, 3.

71. *Ibid.*

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authority to the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury to enter into contracts with private architects for full professional services.” Despite this directive, the Office, still under Wetmore’s direction, only considered hiring private architects for large projects due to concerns related to efficiency. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) objected to the Treasury Department’s implementation of the amendment to the 1926 Act and petitioned for the reorganization of the Office. The AIA hoped that the Office would serve only a supervisory function, allowing wider employment of private architects and resulting in greater diversity, vitality, and regional appropriateness in federal architecture. The President’s Emergency Committee for Employment and members of the U.S. Congress echoed the AIA’s concerns, particularly regarding the need to employ local private architects. H.R. 6197, known as the Green Bill, was introduced in Congress in 1932 in an attempt to place all federal building design in the hands of private architects; however, the legislation did not pass. The AIA continued its campaign following the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the appointment of new officials to the Treasury Department, including U.S. Treasury Secretary William H. Woodin.⁷²

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 6166, which reorganized the federal buildings program and promised unemployment relief, was announced in June 1933. The order resulted in the creation of the Procurement Division within the Treasury Department, the transfer of the Office to the Procurement Division, and the change in name of the Office to the Public Works Branch. W.E. Reynolds, Assistant Director of the Procurement Division, was put in charge of five units headed by the supervising engineer, the supervising architect, the office manager, the chairman of the board of award, and the chief of the legal section.⁷³

New relief funding programs were initiated to allocate and supplement funding for public works simultaneously with the U.S. Treasury Department reorganization. Harold L. Ickes, the federal emergency administrator of public works, allocated funds to the Treasury Department for the construction of federal buildings under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, including two allotments in August 1933 in the amounts of \$6,971,648 and \$13,799,550, as well as additional funds for emergency construction projects throughout the country.⁷⁴

Public Works Administration, 1933-1939

Although public works spending as a means to aiding recovery from the Great Depression began under the Hoover Administration, President Roosevelt’s New Deal is credited with using the federal buildings program to achieve relief. These efforts were formalized in 1933, when the Public Works Administration (PWA) was organized to give structure to the recovery effort.

The PWA oversaw the planning and construction of federal and non-federal public works projects, including post office construction. To stimulate the economic recovery, the government rapidly expanded its public works program. This provided work for the unemployed, many of whom were in the building trades. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

72. Lee, *Architects to the Nation*, 248-252.

73. *Ibid.*, 253.

74. *Ibid.*, 254.

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maintained statistics on employment, wages, cost of materials, and other PWA project data. During the 1930s, the number of public buildings constructed increased dramatically.

Because of the planning already completed under the 1926 legislation, these projects were able to start up quickly. Post office construction increased nearly threefold during this period compared to the previous fifty years. The PWA built 406 post offices in the years from 1933 to 1939, which represents more than one-eighth of the total 3,174 PWA construction projects built. The U.S. Congress authorized a number of New Deal programs that were used to fund the construction of post offices. In addition, funds for post office construction came from the relief program authorized by the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of July 21, 1932; the Emergency Construction Program under the Appropriation Act of June 1934; and the Building Program for the District of Columbia, authorized by the Act of 1926. The Treasury Department retained responsibility for post office construction funding until 1939, utilizing a number of different programs and authorizations to fund the program.⁷⁵

These post offices were among the most familiar government buildings to the public. Despite the desire to complete projects rapidly, the PWA also stressed the importance of high quality in order to ensure “public works of an enduring character and lasting benefits.”⁷⁶ The program’s goals were to construct buildings as quickly as possible and to employ as many people as possible at efficient costs. The standardized design practice of 1915 was well suited to this high-speed, efficient process. Standardized design accelerated project completion by reducing the number of new drawings needed for each project and avoided construction problems caused by design changes or incorrect plans. Simplified ornamentation also reduced drawing time. While exterior design variations were allowed, standardized interior plans and details were well established and utilized. A publication entitled “Instructions to Private Architects Engaged on Public Building Work under the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Treasury Department” listed these standards. The most commonly used styles were the Classical, Colonial Revival, and Simplified or Stripped Classical. All of the styles can be characterized by symmetrical massing and plain surfaces.⁷⁷

From PWA to GSA, 1939-1954

Federal building construction under PWA programs continued until 1942 when the American entry into World War II virtually halted all building activity. The few buildings finished in the years 1942-1943 were completing existing projects. The styles of architecture remained the same, as did the Supervising Architect’s commitment to standardized design.

After World War II, federal architectural activities were well diffused throughout military and civilian agencies. In 1949, the United States General Services Administration (GSA) subsumed the Federal Works Agency, including its public building design function. With the Public

75. Ellis Armstrong, *History of Public Works of the United States, 1776-1945* (Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976), 327.

76. Boland, *National Register Bulletin*, Section II, 3.

77. *Ibid.*, Section II, 4.

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Buildings Act of 1949, the Office of the Supervising Architect increasingly relied on private architectural firms to carry out public building designs.

In 1971, all properties that were at least 51 percent occupied for postal use were removed from the GSA building inventory and transferred to the United States Post Office Department. GSA retains possession of non-military federal buildings, including those that house various federal agencies within one building.⁷⁸

The Murals Program

From 1934 to 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Administration supported public art with a series of programs designed both to assist unemployed artists and artisans, and to improve the character of public buildings within which their work was placed. These programs employed over ten thousand artists, producing a total of 100,000 paintings, eighteen thousand sculptures, thirteen thousand prints, and over four thousand murals.⁷⁹

The New Deal Arts Program sought to bring art to the American people by placing the artwork in accessible locations. The New Deal strove to change the relationship between the artist and society by democratizing art and culture. The projects combined an elitist belief in the value of high culture with the democratic ideal that everyone in the society could and should be the beneficiary of such efforts. Art project officials wrote that the mass of people were "underprivileged in art," and they endeavored to make art accessible to all citizens, regardless of class, race, age, or gender.⁸⁰ In addition to the democratic ideals of federal patronage, New Dealers expected that the art projects would help create a national culture.

George Biddle, an artist and former classmate of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, spearheaded the early movement to obtain funding for the program. A public mural experiment in Mexico inspired Biddle to attempt the same thing in the United States. Joining forces with Edward Bruce, a Treasury Department Official, Biddle obtained funding for a public arts program from PWA Administrator Harold Ickes. Subsequently, Edward Bruce emerged as the chief promoter of public funding for artists and named the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP).

After a shaky start and disagreements on the quality and style of the artists, Bruce insisted that the publicly funded art interpret the "American scene" by focusing on American history and historical personages. By the spring of 1934, the PWAP employed 3,749 artists who produced 15,663 pieces of art, of which approximately four hundred were murals.⁸¹

In September 1934, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Bruce agreed to spend a portion of new federal buildings' construction costs on decoration administered by the art unit, not the architect. Approximately one percent of the building cost was to be reserved for murals,

78. Lee, *Architects to the Nation*, 285-290.

79. Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz, *Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), 5.

80. *Ibid.*, 5.

81. Richard D. McKinzie, *The New Deal for Artists* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1973), 23.

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sculpture, or both. In reality, not all buildings contained artwork. If actual costs for construction exceeded the estimate, the building did not receive art. Consequently, some architects were reluctant to create spaces for murals or sculpture that might not be included.⁸² As a result of the interest in public art, a new Section of Painting and Sculpture became part of the Office of Supervising Architect in the Treasury Department. In 1938, the Section of Painting and Sculpture became the Section of Fine Arts. One year later, the entire building department with the art unit transferred from the Treasury Department to the New Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration.

According to Edward Bruce, the Chief of the Section of Fine Arts in 1940, the aim of the Section of Fine Arts was to “secure the murals and sculpture of distinguished quality appropriate to the embellishment of federal buildings.”⁸³ Artists were selected for Section of Fine Arts projects through anonymous competitions open to American citizens and judged by a panel of experienced artists independent of the Section of Fine Arts and based on the merit of the artwork and suitability to the site. During this period, as the design of federal buildings was increasingly standardized, an emphasis was placed on including public art that presented local scenes or historical events. Genre themes showing people engaged a work or leisure activity particular to the region were among the most popular subjects. The subject and style of expression of a completed mural were often subject to negotiation between the artist and various interested parties, including those from the community. *Corn, Cotton, and Tobacco Culture*, the mural that was hung in the Anderson United States Post Office and Court House, is reflective of the trend toward local genre scenes.

Statement of Significance and Integrity

United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, South Carolina, is significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government on the local level as a notable example of a federal government building in Anderson, South Carolina, erected under the New Deal-era federal programs designed in the 1930s to relieve economic problems caused by the Great Depression. The building embodies the ideas of the federal building campaign initiated by the President Hoover and President Roosevelt administrations under the direction of Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon (1934-1941). The building is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture on the local level as a representative example of the Colonial Revival architectural style popular for federal buildings constructed during the tenure of Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon. The period of significance for the building begins in 1938, the date of completion of construction, and ends in 1940, with the installation of the federally commissioned artwork.

Integrity Evaluation

The United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, South Carolina retains a high degree of exterior integrity. The building has only minor alterations to the exterior, the majority of which have occurred to the rear (east elevation) of the building. On the interior, the building

82. *Ibid.*, 38.

83. *Exhibition of Mural Designs for Federal Buildings* (Ottawa, Canada: The National Gallery of Canada, 1940), 4.

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retains the original terrazzo floor and marble wainscoting in the lobby and second-floor corridor, all finishes that were typical to the public buildings of that period and style. The second-floor courtroom retains the original wainscoting and decorative wood paneling. The continued use of the building throughout the twentieth century necessitated interior alterations to non-public office areas. The application of new interior finishes such as industrial carpeting, acoustic-tile drop ceilings, and inset fluorescent lighting do not detract from the integrity of the building as the original features remain beneath the more recent materials.

Despite interior alterations to accommodate the changing and continuous use of the building, the United States Post Office and Court House retains its overall integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. In addition, the building retains its original location. As is typical of many downtown areas, the blocks surrounding the building have been developed to various degrees and now contain mid- to late-twentieth-century, multi-story commercial, civic, and residential edifices as well as buildings that predate the construction of the United States Post Office and Court House. However, the building retains its integrity of setting as located in the downtown Anderson area surrounding by commercial, civic, and residential buildings. The United States Post Office and Court House retains its overall monumentality as a governmental entity and continues its use as a federal building and U.S. District Courthouse, all of which contribute to integrity of association. The building's retention of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, and association results in the building's feeling as an early twentieth-century federal building erected in the Colonial Revival architectural style.

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Anderson Independent (SC), "Inspect Again for Post Office," 7 December 1935.

United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Anderson Independent (SC), "Strong Sentiment is Shown for Todd Lot Federal Site." 12 December 1935.

Anderson Daily Mail (SC), "Local Post Office Plans are now 80% Completed," 21 November 1936.

Anderson Daily Mail (SC), "Contract for New Federal Building to Be Let in Few Weeks 6 February 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Asks Bids on New Building," 9 April 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "175, 243 is Lowest Bid Submitted for Construction of Federal Building," 1 May 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Work on New Federal Building will Get Underway on June 15," 12 May 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Work on Anderson's New Federal Building Gets Underway Monday," 13 June 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Signs of the Times," 18 June 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC) "Make Progress Here," 26 July 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Elaborate Ceremony is Planned For Laying Cornerstone Of New Federal Building on August 28," 13 August 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Cornerstone Anderson's New Federation Building Be Laid This Afternoon; Elaborate Ceremony," 28 August 1937.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Place Cornerstone of U.S. Building," 29 August 1937.

Anderson Daily Mail (SC), "Final Inspection of Anderson Post office is Set," 26 April 1938.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Watkins First to Move Into New Building," 13 May 1938.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Post Office be Closed Saturday, New Federal Building Opens Monday," 18 May 1938.

Anderson Independent (SC), "Federal Court To Open in New U.S. Building Tomorrow," 23 May 1938.

Charalambous, Nicholas. "Ceremony Draws Hundreds," *Independent-Mail* (SC), 6 April 2002.

United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Personal Interviews

Charles Lyons (GSA Building Manager), 5 May 2009, in discussion with author.

Miscellaneous

Anderson Historic District (NRIS#7112450072), National Register of Historic Places
Nomination, December 13, 1971.

Anderson Downtown Historic District (NRIS#79002372), National Register of Historic Places
Nomination, February 23, 1979.

Acker, Franklin. "About Town: Post Offices and Postmasters," Available from the Post Offices
Vertical File, Pendleton District Historical, Recreational, and Tourism Commission, Pendleton,
South Carolina.

Drawings for United States Post Office and Court House, Anderson, South Carolina, 1936-1954,
in collection of U.S. General Services Administration, Southeast Sunbelt Region, Atlanta,
Georgia.

Exhibition of Mural Designs for Federal Buildings, Ottawa, Canada: The National Gallery of
Canada, 1940.

Letter from Arthur Covey to Forbes Watson, Section of Painting and Sculpture, 4 March 1940;
on file in the Anderson Federal Building Vertical File, Pendleton District Historical,
Recreational, and Tourism Commission, Pendleton, South Carolina.

Press release, "Mural Painting by Arthur Covey: Corn, Cotton, and Tobacco Culture," 10 May
1940. U.S. General Services Administration, Fine Arts Division files, Central Office,
Washington, D.C.

White, Jim . "Anderson Area History." Unpublished, available from the Pendleton Historical,
Recreational, and Tourism Commission, Pendleton, South Carolina.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register(Contributing to Anderson Historic District)
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency (U.S. General Services Administration, Southeast Sunbelt Region)
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.90

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 348718 | Northing: 3819047 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes the approximately 0.90-acre tax parcel (Anderson County Tax Parcel # 1233023003) upon which the United States Post Office and Court House is located. The northern and eastern boundaries are defined by the property's tax parcel boundary that separates the building lot from a commercial lot to the north and residential lot to the east. The southern boundary is delineated by East Market Street. The western boundary is defined by South McDuffie Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundary for the United States Post Office and Court House in Anderson, South Carolina, includes the entire portion of the 0.90-acre tax parcel that is historically associated with the building during its period of significance (1938-1940). This boundary follows the tax parcel lines and includes the federal building that has occupied the lot since its construction in 1938. The boundary encompasses all of the significant resources and features that comprise the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Emma K. Young/Architectural Historian
organization: A.D. Marble & Company, for the U.S. General Services Administration
street & number: 3913 Hartzdale Drive, Suite 1302
city or town: Camp Hill state: PA zip code: 17011
e-mail eyoung@admarble.com
telephone: 717.731.9588
date: September 2010

Form Revised By

name/title: Elizabeth Hannold
organization: U.S. General Services Administration, Center for Historic Buildings
street & number: 1800 F Street, NW, Suite 5400
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20450
e-mail elizabeth.hannold@gsa.com
telephone: 202.5012863
date: August 24, 2017

United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: United States Post Office and Court House

City or Vicinity: Anderson

County: Anderson

State: South Carolina

Photographer: E. Young, A.D. Marble & Company

Date Photographed: March 2009*

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0001)
West elevation, view to east

Photo # 2 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0002)
North and east elevations, view to southwest

Photo # 3 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0003)
East elevation, view to west

United States Post Office and Court House
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Photo # 4 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0004)
East and south elevations, view to northwest

Photo # 5 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0005)
Interior, first floor, lobby, view to northwest

Photo # 6 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0006)
Interior, first floor, lobby, view to south

Photo # 7 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0007)
Basement level, corridor, view to south

Photo # 8 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0008)
Second floor, elevator/stairway landing, view to east

Photo # 9 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0009)
Second floor, corridor, view to southeast

Photo # 10 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0010)
Second floor, corridor, view to south

Photo # 11 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0011)
Second floor courtroom, view to southeast

Photo # 12 of 12 (SC_Anderson County_United States Post Office and Court House_0012)
Third floor, northern section, view to south

*Note – GSA has verified that the building as shown in these views has not changed since the date of photography.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



G. ROSS ANDERSON, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE



















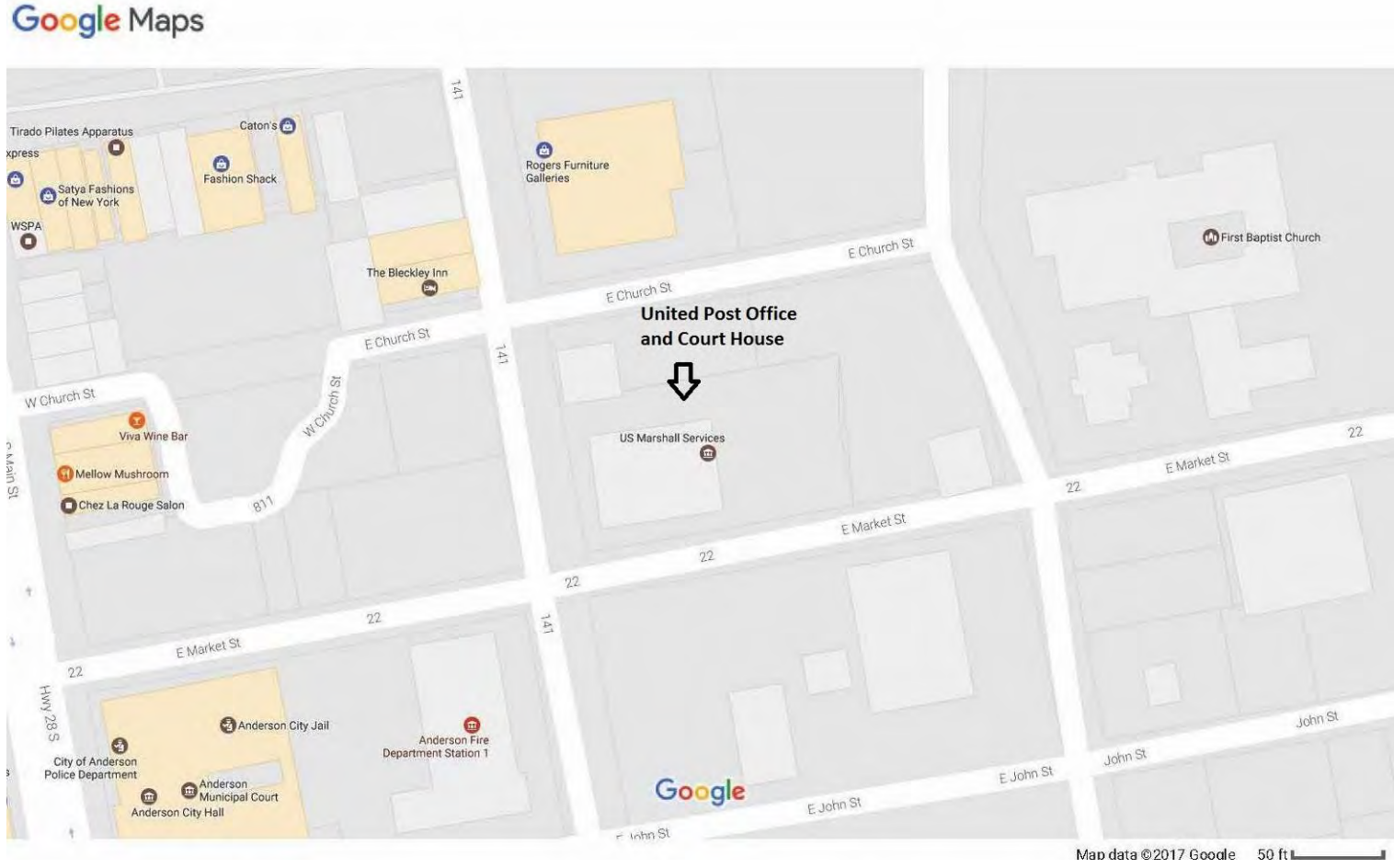




United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Location Map

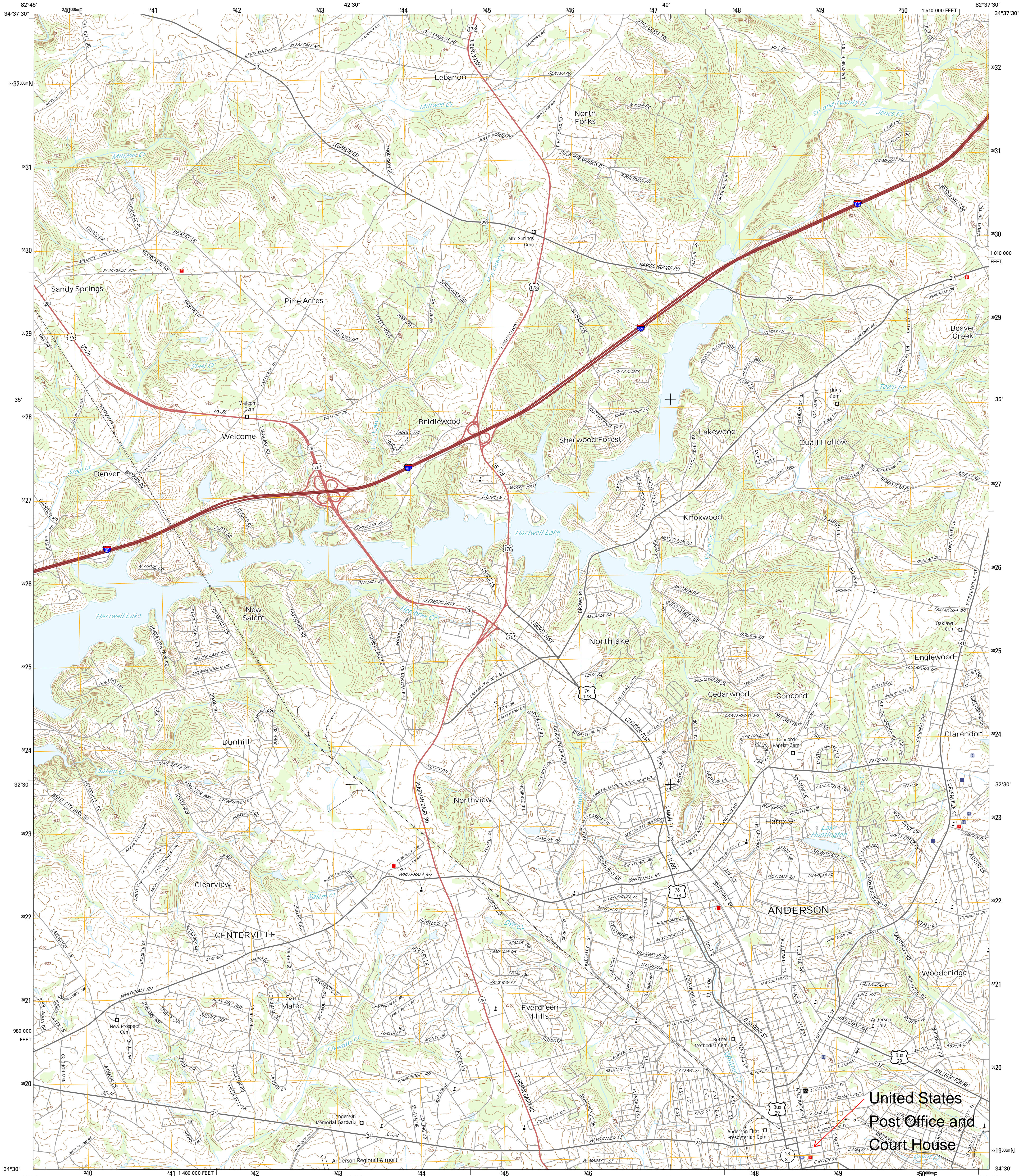


United States Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Anderson, South Carolina
County and State

Figure 2 – United States Post Office and Court House, circa 1938 Completion Photograph,
Source: National Archives (RG 121-BS, Box 80, Folder D-1)





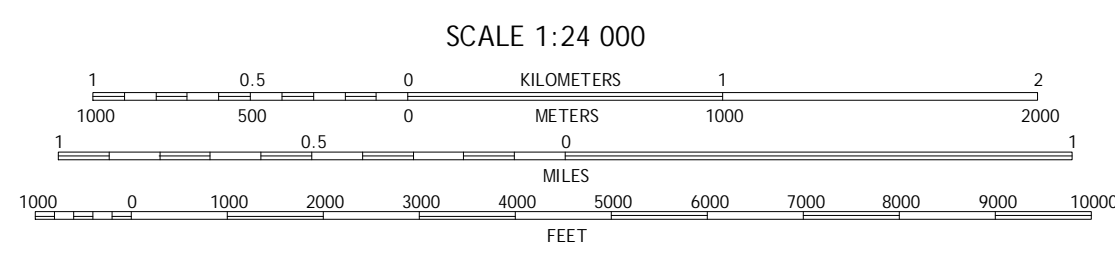
Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 17S
10 000-foot ticks: South Carolina Coordinate System of 1983

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.

Imagery.....NIP, April 2011
Roads.....HERE, ©2013
Names.....GNIS, 2013
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2011
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2013
Boundaries.....Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972 - 2013

UTM GRID AND 2011 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

| |
|---|
| U.S. National Grid 100,000-m Square ID |
| LU |
| Grid Zone Designation 17S |



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

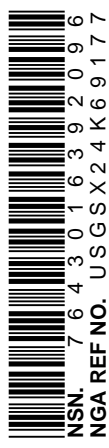
| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Expressway | Local Connector |
| Secondary Hwy | Local Road |
| Ramp | 4WD |
| Interstate Route | US Route |
| | State Route |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 8 |

ADJOINING QUADRANGLES

- 1 Clemson
- 2 Five Forks
- 3 Piercetown
- 4 La France
- 5 Bolton West
- 6 Hartwell NE
- 7 Anderson South
- 8 Saylor's Crossroads

ANDERSON NORTH, SC
2014



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: United States Post Office and Court House

Multiple Name:

State & County: SOUTH CAROLINA, Anderson

Date Received: 8/29/2017 Date of Pending List: 9/22/2017 Date of 16th Day: 10/10/2017 Date of 45th Day: 10/13/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001746

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 10/13/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Criteria A and C. Local level. AOS: architecture and politics/government. POS 1938-1940.
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 10/13/17

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



GSA Public Buildings Service

August 29, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, NRHP & NHL Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Mr. Loether:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Post Office and Court House (current name: G. Ross Anderson, Jr. Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse) located at 315 South McDuffie Street, Anderson, South Carolina, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is located within and contributes to the previously listed Anderson Historic District (#7112450072). The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the United States Post Office and Court House, located in Anderson, SC, to the National Register of Historic Place; and,
- Disk 2 – The enclosed disk contains the .tif image files for the above referenced nomination.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected officials were notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places by letters dated June 29, 2017. No response comments were received.

Along with the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence on the property's eligibility, we received a number of review comments. The enclosed nomination incorporates revisions in response to as many of those comments as possible, given the limitations on our time and resources.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please do so by a delivery service as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures

Cc: Dr. W. Eric Emerson, State Historic Preservation Officer
Audrey Entorf, Regional Historic Preservation Officer